

## INDIGENOUS FASHION OF SEMIOTIC AT DANI TRIBE IN WAMENA PAPUA HIGHLAND

Manase Halitopo<sup>1</sup>  
Napius Kogoya<sup>2</sup>

*English Department, STKIP Abdi Wacana Wamena, Indonesia<sup>1</sup>*  
*English Department, STKIP Abdi Wacana Wamena, Indonesia<sup>2</sup>*

[manasehalitopo11@gmail.com](mailto:manasehalitopo11@gmail.com)/[napiuskogoya93@gmail.com](mailto:napiuskogoya93@gmail.com)

### Abstracts

Papua Island has many ethnic groups, one of them is Dani tribe which is located in the Highland of Papua Province. The objectives of this research were to recognize the semiotics meaning of the form and size in the Dani tribe. In addition, the researcher took the data from the elders who have grown up and the stakeholders in the Wamena city. In collecting data, the researcher did the observation, interview, and documentation. In analyzing the data, the researcher used the data condensation, data display, and the verifying. Therefore, the result showed that there are some traditional fashion used by men such as *Werene Puali* (Parrot), *Siluki* (Fox tail), *Kena Esi* (Cockatoo feather), *Werene Kare* (Parrot feather), *Hupa Eken* (Grain of wheat), *Sisika* (Eagle feather), *Besi* (Charcoal of grass), *Inyelak Pisik* (Yellow clay), *Wam Aek* (Pork fang), *Melaik* (Small white tie), *Walimo* (Long tie), *Yalema Esi* (The back necklace), *Yeke esi* (Bracelet), *Sege* (Spear), *Sike* (Arrow), *Tok eken* (Bow), *Holim* (Water Gourd), and *Saniken* (Belt) and the women tradition fashion were *Sali* (Skirt for unmarried women), *Yokal* (Skirt for marriage women), and *Sekan* (Bracelet), *Inyelak Pisik* (Yellow clay), *Traditional Bag* (Su).

**Keywords:** Dani, Fashion, Semiotic

### INTRODUCTION

Language plays very important rule in human's life. It is a tool used by people to share feelings, thoughts, asks, and ideas. Besides, According to Manullang and Lazasadela in Kiki Devita Sari, (2023), the language can be known from the cycle or social class where the person is from, but generally, it talks about how symbols can stand for something else, how they can be used to communicate, and how they can be imbued with meaning. On the other words, the language is used differently when they communicate with each other. It consists the symbols that they can perceived, identify, interpreted in their life.

In addition, a language is a system of symbols through which people communicate. The symbols may be spoken, written, or sign with the hands. The sign used to communicate can be found in the street, traffic light, body fashion, etc. The semiotic is one of the theories of language. it refers to study sign and other system to

communicated.

As Kiki Devita Sari in Napius Kogoya (2024), semiotics is concerned with everything that can be taken as a sign. Semiotics is not only the study about the signs used in every conversation but also can be studied in the form of images, sounds, gestures, and words.

The fashion that shows or portrays some kinds of men's and women's authority in society that would differ with one another. It is separated by sexes and creates different forms between men and women. It would be different based on their cultures and nations. The fashion tells the human life in the traditional and modern era. The creativity of humans creates dress, bag, cloth, head, etc. The researcher conducted this research based on the semantic approach of traditional fashion in Dani tribe through the signs of symbols which is constructed by the Dani's tribe. In addition, the researcher conducted this research because he is interested and no one has written about it.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher formulates the problem of this research as follows; What is the semiotic meaning and culture values at Dani tribe in Papua highland. The objective of this research is to identify the semiotic fashion used at Dani tribe in Papua highland.

### **Semiotics**

As cited by Situmorang in Kiki Devita Sari, (2023) semiotics studies signs or symbols and their meanings. Signs or symbols of various origins. There are those from humans, animals, plants, and signs or symbols of human creation. Semiotics is also often seen as having an important anthropological dimension, and every cultural phenomenon can be studied as communication.

### **Kind of Semiotics**

There are several kinds of semiotics as follows;

#### *Analytical Semiotics.*

Parret (1983, p.1) analyzes the sign system. Peirce's semiotics takes an object and uses analysis to become an idea and a feeling (Ed. Innis, 1985, p.5).

*Faunal Semiotics (Zoosemiotics)* Hawkes (1977, p.124) Semiotics only explains the signs produced by animals.

*Cultural Semiotics* Semiotics studies the system of signs in a specific cultural society. It is known that humans, as social beings, have a certain cultural system that has been demonstrated and respected for generations. as cited by Ikegami, 1985; Lamb, 1984; Kelkar, 1984 in Kiki Devita Sari, (2023). for instant: In Dani Women's fashion. When the woman who uses "Sali" as their cloth and attend the party, we can recognize her if she is not married yet but the woman who uses "Yokal" as their cloth and attend the cultural party we can identify her if she is already married.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This research was conducted by using a descriptive method with a qualitative study as cited by Christi Agustin Malaikosa in Napius Kogoya, (2024). Because the data collection in this research was in the form of images and words, the researcher used descriptive method to analyze it. As the researcher explained in the previous chapter, this research discussed the semiotic fashion of the Dani Tribe in Papua highland. the subject of this research is Dani tribe in Papua highland.

The researcher collected the data through some steps as cited by Sutrisno in Napius Kogoya, (2024) namely 1) observation,, it is done systematically through observation, recording the phenomena which is observed (Sutrisno, 1987: 160). 2) interview which is done to answer the research objectives. The interview is done through the elders and the tribe chief of Dani Tribe. 3) documentation, this technique is by observing and studying documentation in the form of notes and writings. The documentation were talking photographic images.

The analyze technique used in this research are qualitative data analyses followed by the concept of Mile, Huberman dan Saldana in Halitopo (2020) suggested the analysis qualitative data into three parts such as 1). Data Reduction, it is pointed to the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstraction or transformationg the data which is shown in the field notes, interview transcript, and other empirical materials. 2) Data Display, is used to make rows and columns of a matrix in the qualitative data, is should be entered in the cell to analytic activities. and 3) Withdraw of Conclusion, the data is collected, reduced, and displayed the

data, the researcher draw the conclusion based on the result of the research.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The indigenous fashion of Dani tribe is not only simply to protected the body but also is to developed the culture needs and wants. Moreover, Dani fashion is made by things and birds, birds' feathers, and some fruits around them as their fashion. All in all, there are some men and women similarities and differences kinds of traditional clothes used.

### 1. Men's Traditional Fashion

Table 1: Men's Traditional Fashion

No	Men's Traditional Fashion	Dani Language
1.	Parrot	Werene Puali
2.	Fox tail	Siluki
3.	Cockatoo Feather	Kena Esi
4.	Parrot Feather	Werene kare
5.	Grain of wheat	Hupa Eken
6.	Eagle Feather	Sisika
7.	Charcoal of Grass	Besi
8.	Yellow Clay	Inyelak Pisik
9.	Pork Fang	Wam Aek
10.	Small White Tie	Melaik
11.	Long Tie	Walimo
12.	The back Necklace	Yalema Esi
13.	Bracelet	Yeke Esi
14.	Speak	Sege
15.	Arrow	Sike
16.	Bow	Tok Eken
17.	Water Guard	Holim
18.	Belt	Saniken



Figure 1: Men's Traditional Fashion

#### a. Parrot (Werene Puali)

The parrot (Werene Puali) is used in the head as a part of the traditional hat. This Parrot is put in the front of or at the top of the cycle of the black or brown fox tail. The position of the parrot is put upside down. The head of

parrot is put below and the tail is put up. This parrot is only used by the tribal chief.

b. Fox Tail (Siluki)

The fox tail (Siluki) is used in the head. It is made from the black and brown fox tail. There are some different types of fox tails made. Some of them made it without coconut leaves around their head and some of them made it by using coconut leaves around their head. It is used to cover their face from the sunlight.

c. Cockatoo Feather (Kena Esi)

The cockatoo feather (Kena Esi) is pinned around the fox tail and parrot (Werene Puali). It is put four or five feathers. They take the longer feather and pin it around the fox tail. It is put as accessories around the head.

d. Parrot Feather (Werene Kare)

The parrot feather (Werene Kare) is used around their forehead as the headband. The color of parrot feather is used only the red one. It is used to cover their face from sunlight. They pull the parrot feather and pin it in the small coconut leaves. it is put around the head.

e. Grain of Wheat (Hupa Eken)

The grain of wheat (Hupa Eken) is made from some seed of bulgur. They take the white only. It is plaited one by one in a cycle. The bulgur is grown besides the garden and at the edge of the rivers. Some are used as necklace and some are used in the forehead.

f. Eagle Feather (Sisika)

The eagle feather (Sisika) is used in the left and right eyes. It is taken only two longer feathers from the eagle. It is used to cover the sunlight and to see people in front only. It is used when they have traditional party and war.

g. Charcoal of Grass (Besi)

The charcoal of grass (Besi) is used in the face. The purpose of charcoal of grass is used to manipulate their enemies. It is made from the random charcoal of grass and mixed it with the lard. It is used when they have a culture party and a war.

h. Yellow Clay (Inyelak Pisik)

The yellow clay (Inyelak Pisik) is used around their bodies and around their eyes. The purpose of using this yellow clay is to confuse their enemies. This yellow clay is mostly used when they have culture event or war. The clay is taken from the edge of the rivers.

i. Pork Fang (Wam Aek)

The pork fang (Wam Aek) is used only for man. This fork fang is used by hanging in the medial crus nose after it is hollowed out between two sides. The pork fang is used to scare enemies around him. It is used for war and culture events. It is mostly used by the tribal chief.

j. Small White Tie (Melaik)

The small white tie (Melaik) is taken from the leaves of Bianca Landrau "Bia". They carve it and put under the long tie (Walimo). It is one of the ties used only by the tribe chief. It is used whenever they have a culture event or war.

k. Long Tie (Walimo)

The long tie (Walimo) is used in front of their body as a tie. It is only used by the tribe chief. It is used by the tribe chief so people can to recognize him if he is a tribe of chief in his group. It is made from the small sea shells. they carve it into the small size and they plait it. The size of the tie is made around 1 meter.

l. The Back Necklace (Yalema Esi)

The back necklace (Yalema Esi) is made from the feather of the black chicken. It is plaited in the small coconut leaves. The back necklace (Yalema Esi) is used in back of the neck as a kind of their necklace in the back of their body. This Back Necklace is used when they have culture party and war.

m. Bracelet (Yeke Esi)

The bracelet (Yeke Esi) is used in both left and right arms. It is made from the dog tail. The color of the bracelet used is only brown and white. The dog tail which has a long reed only. Some of them used the bracelet which is taken from the dog's thigh.

n. Spare (Sege)

The spare (Sege) is made from special tree name "pir". The size of the

spare(Sege) is about 3 cm. the spare (Sege) is used as a weapon for war, hunting, and as a culture events.

o. Arrow (Sike) and Bow (Tok Eken)

The arrow (Sike) and arc (Tok Eken) are used as a weapon to kill enemies and to hunting. This arrow is about 1,5 meters to 2 meters. The arrow is made of the trunk tree of *Geledak*. However, there are two types of arcs used. The one with the 2 meters is used for war and the one with 1 meter is used for hunting. The arrow (Tok Eken) and arc (Sike) are always with man wherever they go, they live and whatever they do. It is always with them.

p. Water Guard (Holim)

The water gourd (Holim) is used as clothes for man. The water gourd (Holim) is made for man to cover his genitals. This cloth is used after grilling, remove its seeds, and blow-dry. The water gourd (Holim) with the 1-meter is used for the culture events. while, the one with the less then 1 meter is used for his daily activities.

q. Belt (Saniken)

The belt (Saniken) is taken from dry rattan or woven bark and used as their belt. It is used to hold on the water gourd (Holim) fall down forward. In the back of their body, sometimes they put a caladium leaves to cover their buttcleavage.

## 2. Women's Traditional Fashion

No	Women's Traditional Fashion	Dani Language
1.	Skirt for unmerried Women	Sali
2.	Skirt for Merried Women	Yokal
3.	Bracelet	Sekan
4.	Yellow Clay	Inyelak Pisik
5.	Traditional Bag	Su



*Women's Traditional Fashion*

a. Skirt for unmerried Women (Sali)

The skirt for unmerried women (Sali) is made from a kind of Mesiang grass. It is grown around the fish field pond. The kind of mesiang grass is dried and plaited using a rope. after plaiting, they used it as their traditional skirt. This skirt (Sali) has around their knees long. It is made based on their size of the body.

b. Skirt for married Women (Yokal)

The skirt for married women (Yokal) is made from the "genimun" grass. it is cut and dried in the sun light. after the "genimun grass is dried, they plait it in cycle using a rope. Some of them color the skirt (Yokal) into two colors such as red, purple, and brown and used it as their traditional skirt. This skirt (Yokal) is only used for married women.

c. Bracelet (Sekan)

The bracelet (Sekan) is a jewelry of man. every man always uses it in his hands. It is made of rattan rope (tikil). It has three basic colors namely black, brown, and white. It is weaved with mixed colors and it is weaved with the size of hands between 6-7 cm.

d. Yellow Clay (Inyelak Pisik)

The yellow clay (Inyelak Pisik) is used around their bodies and around their eyes. The purpose of using this yellow clay is to confuse their enemies. This yellow clay is mostly used when they have culture event or war. The clay is taken from the edge of the rivers.

e. Traditional Bag (Su)

The traditional bag (Su) is made from the tree bark of nenduum tree and



nawa tree. the size of the traditional bag is big. It could carry child, foot, vegetables, wooden tree, etc. This traditional bag has two basic colors, they are brown and light brown.

## CONCLUSIONS

The objective of this research was to identify the semiotics fashion used by the Dani tribe. The results shows that men's traditional clothes are used eighteen items namely Werene Puali (Parrot), Siluki (Fox tail), Kena Esi (Cockatoo feather), Werene Kare (Parrot feather), Hupa Eken (Grain of wheat), Sisika (Eagle feather), Besi (Charcoal of grass), Inyelak Pisik (Yellow clay), Wam Aek (Pork fang), Melaik (Small white tie), Walimo (Long tie), Yalema Esi (The back necklace), Yeke esi (Bracelet), Sege (Spear), Sike (Arrow), Tok eken (Bow), Holim (Water Gourd), and Saniken (Belt). These items are mostly used in a culture event and in a battle. In addition, women's traditional clothes are five items such as Sali (Skirt for unmarried women), Yokal (Skirt for marriade women), and Sekan (Bracelet), Inyelak Pisik (Yellow clay), Traditional Bag (Su). However, only one item is used by women and men namely yellow clay (Inyelak pisik).

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